

EJ and Air Workshop, September 6-7, 2007
Project Information and Summary

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1. Please provide a brief Description of your project/activity.

The presentation is on exciting new community-based air quality monitoring and education program, funded by the San Francisco Foundation, USEPA Region IX and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, that is being implemented in East Palo Alto, CA, a 95 percent people of color in the middle of Silicon Valley. The Community Development Institute (CDI) is working with the above regulators, the City of East Palo Alto and Youth United for Community Action (YUCA) to undertake a three-year long monitoring project. The project seeks to monitor outdoor ambient air triggers of asthma-ozone and particulate. We are seeking to use the monitoring data to educate and mobilize the community around concomitant public policy issues such as land use planning and transportation injustice.

2. Why is it important for communities to know about this project/activity?

The project technology is low-cost and the model is replicable and relevant to other communities of color with similar Asthma problems. We were able to train a local youth to maintain the air monitors and download and analyze the longitudinal data. The project is funded or supported by a coalition of regional, federal regulators in concert with municipal government and grassroots NGOs.

3. What have been the successes and challenges associated with this project/activity?

We have been able to show that East Palo Alto is in non-attainment for PM 2.5 on almost a daily basis. Challenges include correlating the PM2.5 with asthma cases and the limits of the PM monitoring technology that cannot spatiate the PM.

4. Where can communities go for more information about this project/activity? (web and/or contact information)

www.cdi-usa.org